

President Announces 2013 Budget Request for Career and Technical, and Adult Education

President Obama announced his [2013 budget request](#) on Monday, Feb. 13. The budget for the Department represents an overall proposed increase of \$1.7 billion, for a 2.5 percent increase above the enacted FY 2012 budget.

Three key themes are sounded in this budget:

- College Costs: Ensuring Affordability and Quality in Postsecondary Education
- Teachers: Strengthening the Teaching Profession
- Jobs: Aligning Job Training and Education Programs With Workforce Demands

Major Departmental Programs

The budget provides \$850 million for Race to the Top, \$150 million for Investing in Innovation, and \$100 million for Promise Neighborhoods. The budget funds improvements in the quality of postsecondary offerings, makes college more affordable, and helps achieve the president's goal of the U.S. leading the world in college graduates by 2020. This will be accomplished by sustaining the maximum Pell Grant award, preventing student loan interest rates from doubling this summer, doubling the number of work-study jobs, making permanent the *American Opportunity Tax Credit*, and providing new incentives for colleges to keep costs under control. The budget supports state and community college partnerships with businesses to build the skills of American workers.

OVAE's Programs

- **\$1.13 billion to support the reauthorization and reform of the Career and Technical Education program** so that what students learn is more closely aligned with the demands of the workforce, linkages to postsecondary education are strengthened, and the Department can provide funding to promote innovation and reform in CTE. This reflects level funding for activities under the *Carl D. Perkins Career and Technical Education Act of 2006*. Of the total funding, \$1,123,030,000 includes \$1,020,030,000 in formula funds for grants to states, allocations to territories, the Indian program set-aside, and the Native Hawaiian grants, and \$103,000,000 in non-formula funds for other purposes. An additional \$7,829,000 is provided for national activities to support program performance and improvement.
- **\$606.3 million to support activities under the Adult Education and Family Literacy Act of 1998**, which represents level funding. Of the total, \$594,993,000 is available for Adult Education State Grants. Of this latter amount, 1.72 percent is reserved for incentive grants, \$15,000,000 is available to the secretary for the Workforce Innovation Fund, and \$74,709,000 is available for English literacy and civics education. An additional \$11,323,000 is provided for national activities.

Other Budget Proposals Pertinent to OVAE's Work

- **\$8 billion in mandatory funding for the Community College to Career Fund** will be co-administered by the departments of Education and Labor (DOL) to provide competitive grants to support community college and state partnerships with businesses for developing or expanding training programs designed to meet employers needs for 2 million skilled workers including the needs of companies seeking to bring back American jobs from overseas.
- **\$1 billion over three years in mandatory funding to expand Career Academies**, which combine a college preparatory and career and technical curriculum with a career theme. Of the total, \$200 million will be available in 2013.
- **\$20 million for activities to strengthen services provided to disconnected youth**, particularly through innovative and comprehensive re-engagement strategies that encourage additional academic and non-academic supports and multiple pathways that prepare them for college and career success. These funds come from [DOL](#) (\$10 million) and the departments of Education and Health and Human Services (\$5 million each).
- **\$12.5 billion to create a Pathways Back to Work Fund**, part of DOL's budget, with \$2.5 billion to support summer and year-round jobs for low-income youth and \$10 billion to make it easier for workers to remain connected to the workforce and gain new skills for long-term employment.

These investments are made in a federal budget that abides by very tight spending caps that reduce discretionary spending by \$1 trillion over 10 years and, including that amount, has more than \$4 trillion of balanced deficit reduction.